



**DELAINÉ EASTIN**  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
EDUCATION**

721 Capitol Mall

P. O. Box 944272

Sacramento, CA

94244-2720

**DATE:** February 1, 2000

**TO:** County Superintendents

**FROM:** Sonia Hernandez, Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Branch

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS  
SUPPORT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS READING,  
GRADES 7-12, GRANTS

**Intent to submit:** Due Thursday, February 24, 2000  
**Application:** Due Wednesday, April 12, 2000

I am very pleased to announce the availability of Support for Secondary Schools Reading (SSSR), Grades 7-12, Grants. This new competitive grant program allows county offices of education or consortia of county offices to compete for Goals 2000 funds for the purpose of improving reading instruction for pupils enrolled in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, who are reading below grade level. Subgrants will be awarded on a competitive basis in which applicants will seek to meet stated quality criteria.

The purpose of the Support for Secondary Schools Reading grant program is threefold; (1) to identify successful models, programs and connected strategies to improve reading instruction for the target population; (2) to develop and provide professional development or support activities linked to the identified successful practices; and (3) to support initial model program development and implementation, as feasible.

As part of the application criteria, applicants will describe the processes used to identify successful programs, models and/or strategies to improve reading instruction for the target population. Applicants will then describe proposed professional development and/or support activities linked to the identified, successful practice so that a connection between successful practice and professional development is established. Additionally, applicants will describe the collaboration efforts with institutes of higher education in the development and delivery of professional development for the SSSR program.

**One county office (or lead county office if a consortium is created) will be selected from each of the eleven regions ascribed by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association to be the grantee and will be directly responsible for coordinating and administering activities in their region.**

#### Funding Level

There will be \$5,000,000 available for this project period; regional allocations will be calculated on the basis of 7 – 12 CBEDS enrollment for 1998 - 1999. Grant amounts will be flexible but may not exceed the regional allocation and may be negotiated following selection of the most qualified candidates.

### Information Session

There will be one information session. The purpose of this session is to review the content of the RFA with potential applicants and to address specific questions. Please call the Reading and Mathematics Policy and Leadership Office at (916) 657-5140 to make a reservation, so that we can make sufficient copies of the RFA available for participants at the session. The date, time, and location is listed below:

Date: Monday, February 28, 2000

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Location: California Department of Education  
721 Capitol Mall  
Room 166 A & B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### Intent to Submit

The Intent to Submit form should be sent to CDE by **Thursday, February 24, 2000** indicating your interest in applying for these funds. CDE will use this information to set up a database for applicants and for planning the scoring sessions.

### Application

Complete applications must be postmarked or delivered by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2000**. Electronic submissions cannot be accepted. To be eligible for funding, the local governing board must submit a local governing board certification (Attachment 1) and a workplace requirements certification (Attachment 2). Applications will be read and scored using a competitive, peer-review process based on the criteria outlined in the application information. The grant award period will start May 15, 2000 and end July 30, 2001.

Enclosures to this letter:

- I. General Information;
- II. Conditions;
- III. Quality Criteria;
- IV. Intent to Submit; and
- V. Application Materials Checklist and Application forms.

I hope that you will consider applying for this new grant opportunity to provide teachers and administrators with valuable knowledge to enhance the teaching of reading in California schools for pupils in grades 7 – 12, inclusive. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Reading and Mathematics Policy and Leadership Office, 721 Capitol Mall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, (916) 657-5140.

Sincerely,

Sonia Hernandez  
Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Branch

